

LONGDENDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Medical Officer's Report for the year ending 31st December 1969

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration my report on the health of the Urban District of Longdendale for the year 1969. In presenting this report I would remind you that it covers a period during which my predecessor, Dr. A.S. Darling, was in office as Medical Officer of Health. It would be presumptuous of me to comment on the work of the department during this period but I would like to thank him for the careful watch he kept on the health services in Londendale while he was here and wish him a satisfying and full life in General Practice.

The Registrar General's estimate of population increased to 10,160 from 10,030 in 1968. There were 138 live births during the year (178 in 1968) and 85 deaths (105 in 1968). The births were equally divided among the two sexes and of the deaths 47 were males and 38 females. The major cause of death was due to heart disease, next in importance being cerebrovascular disease.

There was a reduction in infant mortality from 5 deaths in 1968 to two in the year under review.

In his report last year, Dr. Darling drew your attention to the lessening importance of infectious diseases and I would endorse his comments. A new weapon has been added to the vaccinators armament and we are now able to offer protection against German Measles. This is double edged as it protects the individual and in so doing may help to bring about a reduction in those congenital defects caused when the expectant mother contracts the disease in early pregnancy.

To follow up his comments on the changing pattern of the work of the M.O.H. I can only report that although a Green Paper on the Health Services was published early this year, a change in Government has stopped its implementation and we now await a further report from our new masters. One thing does seem to be certain and that is a unification of the Health Services which all parties accept even though the method of its achievement may not be the same.

May I in conclusion express my thanks to members of the council for their stimulating interest and kindness to me since I was appointed to succeed Dr. Darling. I would also like to thank Mr. Skirrow and the staff for their willing co-operation and help.

Yours faithfully,

T. HOLME.

Medical Officer of Health.  
Longdendale Urban District Council.

## POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate for mid-1969 was 10,160.

## BIRTHS

There were 138 live births during 1969. Of these 69 were males and 69 females.

The Crude Birth Rate was 13.6 per 1,000 compared with 17.7 per thousand in 1968. When adjusted for comparative purposes with other areas the birth rate was 11.8 per 1,000 compared with 16.3 for England and Wales.

## DEATHS

The number of deaths during 1969 was 85. Of these 47 were males and 38 females. The Crude Death Rate was 8.4 per 1,000 compared with 10.5 per 1,000 for 1968. When adjusted for comparative purposes with other areas the Death Rate was 12.5, the figure for England and Wales during 1969 being 11.9. The causes of death were as shown in the table on page 3.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Two infants died under the age of twelve months.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred as a result of pregnancy.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following figures indicate the extent to which all types of notifiable infectious diseases occurred.

Inf. Jaundice .....	16
Measles .....	29
Scarlet Fever .....	2
Dysentery .....	1

## LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens obtained from patients by family practitioners for various bacteriological tests are sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Manchester. Reports upon specimens are sent to the patient's own doctor and copies are forwarded to the Health Office.

## TUBERCULOSIS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Number of cases on the register on 31.12.68	35	17
Number of cases added to register during 1969 was	3	3
Number of cases removed from register during 1969 was	3	5
Number of cases remaining on register on 31.12.69	35	15

## Services administered by the Cheshire County Council

## CARE OF MOTHERS AND BABIES

A weekly ante-natal Clinic is held every Wednesday morning. The local Domiciliary Midwife attends for the purpose of examination of expectant mothers who wish to have their babies at home. The afternoon of the 2nd Monday in each month is devoted to immunisation and is attended by the Divisional Medical Officer. Other immunisation sessions are carried out as the need arises.

CUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1969 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGDALE

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1969 IN THE URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGDENDALE

LONGDENDALE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

for the year ending

31st December, 1969

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To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1969.

This was not a year of major change within the district, though contained in the report are details of envisaged additional building and improvements in environmental circumstances.

The year was not an easy one administratively, the Housing Act 1969 being yet another example of the ever-growing complexity of recent legislation. Certainly, if the output of complicated and obscure legislation with the accompanying volume of explanatory notes continues, the small authority officer with his wide responsibility of duties will surely suffocate under a welter of paper and forms. This can only enhance the claim for larger authorities with specialist duty officers, and only time will prove whether overall efficiency and benefit accrues from this.

In November the Council's longest serving officer, Mr. H.H. Sidebottom, resigned prematurely from his position as Engineer and Surveyor due to ill-health.

To the members of the Council, the Clerk, our new Medical Officer of Health Dr. Holme, and to Mr. Sidebottom I would express my thanks for co-operation readily given.

Yours faithfully,

F. SKIRROW.

Public Health Inspector.

TABLE SHOWING SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES WITHIN THE DISTRICT

	<u>31.12.68</u>	<u>31.12.69</u>	<u>Increase 68/69</u>	<u>% of total properties</u>
Separate Dwellings	3485	3489	+ 4	
Dwellings served by:-				
(a) Chemical & Pail Closets	74	74		2.1
(b) Water Carriage	3411	3415	+ 4	97.9
(a) Council Sewage Scheme	3340	3344	+ 4	95.9
(b) Septic Tanks	77	77		2.2
(c) Other Means	68	68		1.9
(a) Mains Water Supply	3402	3406	+ 4	97.7
(b) Private Supply	83	83		2.3
Dwellings with baths	2959	2992	+33	85.7

Though the number of new houses completed during the year was only four by private builders, and none by local authority, proposals in hand envisaged considerable new development taking place in the future. The Council approved further housing consisting of six 3 bedrooned houses and twenty-four 2 bedrooned houses at Woodlands Close, Broadbottom, and also investigated the possibility of development of land at Earnshaw Street, Hollingworth.

Private development expected was for 40 dwellings at Hill End, Broadbottom, 30 dwellings at Broadbottom Road, near Woodlands Close, and 72 houses in Taylor Street, Hollingworth.

Manchester Corporation's proposals for the construction of a further 237 houses on the Hattersley Overspill Estate were the subject of protracted discussions due to this Councils' apprehension as to possibility of further condensation problems arising, the type of house being again the no-fires form of construction which had had extensive trouble with condensation in houses already built on the estate. Manchester Corporation ultimately obtained planning permission for this form of construction with assurances as to the type of heating and internal dry-lining, while also promising more extensive treatment measures against cases of condensatory dampness in houses already occupied.

My own views are that despite all the expert studies given to this very serious problem, there still would seem a possibility of houses being constructed which could repeat the problem, and that with the information already available approval at Ministry level should be able to ensure against this certainly in respect of local authority housing.

HOUSING ACT, 1957 - 1969

Proposals for the making fit of 1, 1a, 3, & 5 St. Anne's Street, Broadbottom, which houses were subject to Closing Orders were accepted - the scheme submitted was for the provision of two dwellings from the four cottages.

Properties 96 to 106 Market Street, and 2 to 6 Moorfield Terrace, Hollingworth were declared as comprising a Clearance Area. This seriously deteriorating block of property has been a detriment in the village for a long period, but the problem of providing alternative business accommodation to some of the occupiers had held up Housing Act action on same.

The demolition order on 74 Market Street, Hollingworth was rescinded on the completion of works to convert the property into two flats.

20 houses were improved by private owners by Standard Grant procedure, and two by Discretionary Grants. 6 houses in Council ownership were improved by grant aid.

Further consideration was given to the possibility of improvements area action on an area in Broadbottom (referred to in last year's report), though no firm decisions were reached.

There were no applications for Disrepair Certificates.

There were no houses in multiple occupation, nor common lodging houses within the district.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 ETC.

Number of informal or verbal notices	81
Number of statutory notices served	6
Number of properties at which defects remedied or nuisances abated following informal action	107
Number of properties at which defects remedied or nuisances abated following statutory action	6 (1 in default)

#### CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956-68

During the year the Council agreed in principle to apply a smoke control policy within the district, but by June information was to hand indicating that Ministry approval was likely to be withheld for any such programme being commenced in white areas due to financial restrictions.

Following correspondence with the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, a meeting took place with one of the officers in October, arising from which limited go ahead was given to submit proposals in 1970. Though covering a period later than the year for which this report is made, it is relevant to state that the ensuing solid smokeless fuel shortages anticipated have influenced the Council in holding back the action envisaged in 1969.

Figures are given below of the quarterly average readings from the Volumetric instrument sited at the Council Offices, Hollingworth.

<u>Period</u>	<u>Smoke (Conc. Ug/M<sup>3</sup>)</u>	<u>Sulphur (Conc. Ug/M<sup>3</sup>)</u>
January, February, March	163	139
April, May, June	77	85
July, August, September	59	52
October, November, December	115	102

#### WATER SUPPLY

All mains supply within the district is by Manchester Corporation Waterworks and is subject to filtration and chlorination. Details have been given in previous reports. The department carries out its own weekly sampling within the district.

Twelve samples of mains supply were additionally submitted by this Authority to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. Of these ten samples had "nil counts", while the other two had counts of 2 and 14 coliform bacilli per 100 ml. (nil for each coli-type 1). Repeat samples on these two sampling points showed completely satisfactory (nil) reports.

Number of properties on mains supply	3,406
Number of properties on private supply	83

#### REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The service throughout the year under the control of the Engineer & Surveyor, but proposals to transfer the service to the control of the Health Department were in hand.

A weekly collection is given in all except isolated parts of the district where collection is fortnightly. Tipping continued by arrangement with Hyde Municipal Borough at their tip at Dunkirk Farm.

The bonus scheme prepared by the Cheshire County Council O/M team was agreed by all parties concerned during the year and put into operation in April. This scheme included taking over the collection throughout the Tintwistle Rural District (1,500 population), and at the same time gave a slight reduction in the labour force. Despite some early difficulties the scheme bedded down and worked satisfactorily on the whole, to the benefit of both the crews in higher earnings and the Council in overall economies on the service.

The Local Government Research Unit Study continued its investigation on the future recommendation for refuse disposal embracing 14 authorities, but no short term tangible results were in prospect by the end of the year, and this Council still favoured the proposed pulverisation plant provision jointly by Glossop M.B., Longendale U.D.C. and Tintwistle R.D.C., though this scheme made little real progress due to site and planning difficulties.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Analysis at the end of the year</u>		
	<u>Type</u>	<u>No. registered under Section 16 Food and Drugs Act 1955</u>	<u>Preserved Food</u>
1. Chip Potatoes, Fried Fish	3		3
2. Butchers	8		7
3. Manufacturing Bakery Grocery and Sweets	2	1	2
4. Grocery, Sweets and Greengrocery	13	5	
5. Grocery Sweets	7	2	
6. Sweets	7	5	
7. Greengrocery	3		
8. Greengrocery, Fish	4		
9. Retail Bakery, Grocery, Sweets	3	2	2
10. Public Houses	16		
11. Clubs selling drinks	4		
12. Factories and School Canteens	8		
13. Cafes	3	2	

It was not possible to devote as much time as could be wished to routine inspection of food premises, nevertheless, some improvements were achieved viz new premises of a high standard were opened by one of the butchers in the district, following discussions over a period, and alternative and improved bakehouse premises outside the district obtained by a manufacturing baker.

Notices were served on three food premises occupiers in respect of unsatisfactory conditions.

Two instances of refrigerator failure resulted in the issuing of voluntary surrender certificates for unsound food to a value of £40. 0. 0.

Four complaints as to unsound foodstuffs purchased within the district were officially dealt with. Two cases taken by the County Weights & Measures Department following these were heard during the year, one case in respect of a mouldy college pudding being dismissed, and following a plea of guilty in respect of a fly contained in a purchase of a pie and chips a £5 fine was imposed. A prosecution was pending at the end of the year in respect of the sale of mouldy sausages. The fourth complaint

was in respect of unsatisfactory contents of a tin of stewed steak and was found to be unjustified.

Two of the cases emphasise the need for strict attention to be given to shelf life and stock rotation of perishable foods, and in the one instance the very debatable question of codings which can only be properly understood by the manufacturer or distributor was raised.

There are neither egg pasteurising plants nor poultry processing premises within the district.

#### MILK SUPPLY

The licensing of milk suppliers within the district is under the control of the Cheshire County Council, with the exception of producer retailers who are licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

The County Council undertakes the sampling of both heat treated and raw milk retailed in the district, information of these results, a summary of which is given below, being made available by the County Medical Officer of Health.

	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>	<u>Void</u>
Sterilised Milk (Turbidity Test)	10	-	-
Pasteurised Milk (Meth.Blue Test) (Phosph. Test)	32 29	1 -	5 -
Raw T.T. Milk (Meth.Blue Test)	86	21	3
Ultra Heat Treated Milk (Colony Count)	2	-	-

Note: The foregoing tests are those prescribed under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, and are intended to indicate the cleanliness of production and handling and/or effectiveness of heat treatment. They do not have reference to the quality of the milk as to fat and non-fatty solids content.

In the case of one retailer obtaining his supply of untreated milk from a farm in Derbyshire, investigations into production and handling technique were carried out by staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, after more than one unsatisfactory Methylene Blue Test results included in the above table.

In addition, results were notified as follows as tests for brucella infection in un-treated milk.

		Milk Ring Test		Culture	
		<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive</u>	<u>Negative</u>	<u>Positive</u>
(1)	Retail Samples	94	3 + 1 ++ 1 +++	4	1
(2)	Bulk Samples	8	-	-	-
(3)	Individual Cow Samples	30	9 + 3 + 9 ++ 2 +++	18	5

In addition, 8 guinea pig inoculation tests were reported negative on tubercle test and one on brucella test. As a result of the positive culture results shown above two notices were served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959 requiring heat treatment of milk from two separate herds, withdrawal of the order being effected on eradication of all suspected animals in one case, while in the other the farmer concerned ceased all retail sales of un-treated milk.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are no slaughterhouses within the district.

### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The total number of premises registered at the end of the year was:-

Offices	1
Retail Shops	18
Catering Establishments	9

Forty-five visits were made to these premises and one informal notice was served for non-compliance with the Act.

No accidents were reported under Section 48.

### ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

One boarding establishment continued to be licenced under the Act within the district.

APPENDIX

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health  
in respect of the year 1969 for the  
URBAN DISTRICT OF LONGDENDALE in the County of  
Cheshire

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories  
Act, 1961

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	7	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	12	7	-	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Refd. to H.M. Insp. (4)	by H.M. Insp. (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	-	-

APPENDIX - (2)

Factories Act, 1961

Part viii of the  
Act

Outwork

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of work (1)			Section 110		Section 111	
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing apparel etc.	6	-	-	-	-	-
) Cleaning and ) Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	1	-	-	-	-	-
All other forms of outwork	-	-	-	-	-	-